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No-Spill Drinking Cup Apparatus

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Related Applications

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Nonprovisional Application Serial No. 09/271,779 filed March 18, 1999 (patented), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Nonprovisional Application Serial No. 09/138,588 filed August 21, 1998 (patented), which claims the priority of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/056,218 filed August 21, 1997. The present application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Nonprovisional Application Serial No. 10/001,257 filed November 27, 2001 (pending), which is a continuation of U.S. Nonprovisional Application Serial No. 09/138,588 filed August 21, 1998 (patented), which claims the priority of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/056,218 filed August 21, 1997. The priority of those prior applications is claimed, and all of those applications are fully incorporated herein by reference.

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a no-spill cup assembly with an improved valve mechanism to prevent liquid from flowing out of the cup when not desired.

Background of the Invention

No-spill cup assemblies are well known in the art. In the past, a variety of such assemblies have been developed and marketed. In general, the goal of a no-spill cup is to provide a construction which minimizes or prevents liquid from emerging out of the cup when liquid flow is not desired, i.e. when the user is not drinking. However, though the assemblies of the prior art are intended to avoid such accidents, their construction is such that they generally do not provide a secure enough protection against undesirable spilling or leakage. Thus, when such cups are inverted, or more significantly, when they are shaken vigorously, liquid will often emerge from them. This can be a particular problem with